# GCE Music Technology 2017:
# Scheme of Work – Component 1 – 2-year course

## Contents


**Year One** **1**

Year Two 3

# Year One

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| **Weeks 1–2** | **Introduction to recording task**<br>• As part of the introduction to the recording task, students will be provided with an overview of the component<br>• Students are made aware of the requirements to fulfil the specification:<br>o One recording, chosen from a list of ten songs provided by Pearson, consisting of a minimum of five compulsory instruments and two additional instruments, released on the Pearson website on 1st June in the calendar year preceding the year in which the qualification is to be awarded<br>o Keyboard tracks may be sequenced<br>o Total time must be between 3 minutes and 3½ minutes<br>o Logbook and authentication form must be supplied |
| **Weeks 3–7** | **Introduction to recording and mixing and focus on associated core hardware**<br>• Basic microphone theory<br>• Recording studio induction, with an introduction to live room acoustics<br>• XLR cables; phantom power<br>• Recording vocal (condenser) and electric guitar (dynamic)<br>• Core mixing techniques – balance pan, shelving EQ and reverb<br>• **Practical project** – recording vocal and/or electric guitar over a given backing track |
| **Weeks 8–14** | **Recording acoustic/bass guitar and intermediate mixing skills**<br>• Workshops on recording acoustic guitar and bass guitar<br>• Understanding jack cables and DI<br>• Intermediate mixing e.g. using core compressor parameters and fades |

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| | • **Practical project** – record short extract of acoustic guitar and/or bass to a click track<br>• Research/prepare (and start) practice recording task based on AS brief prescribed by Pearson for internal assessment |
| **Weeks 15–20** | **Exploring the mark scheme, recording percussion/keyboards and advanced mixing**<br>• Introduction to the mark scheme – assessing previous students' work against it (e.g. from suitable legacy AS work)<br>• Percussion and keyboard recording workshop<br>• Mixing tasks using multiple EQ bands, compression and gating<br>• Start practice recording task in independent study to AS brief set by Pearson |
| **Weeks 21–26** | **Practice brief sessions, mixing practice and mastering**<br>• Practice brief sessions with skills-based workshops at the start of each lesson<br>• Mixing workshops focusing on mark scheme areas<br>• Mastering basics, e.g. topping and tailing, perceived volume using limiting |
| **Weeks 27–33** | **Refining practice recording with peer review**<br>• Peer-review sessions to aid refining of practice recording<br>• Students submit practice recording piece for internal marking and feedback |
| **Weeks 34–39** | **Drum recording project and prescribed brief preparation**<br>• Develop knowledge of recording with multiple microphones and polar patterns<br>• Drum recording project consolidating learning about multiple microphones and polar patterns<br>• Research and preparatory work towards an A level brief set by Pearson |


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# Year Two

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| **Weeks 1–2** | **Exploring the mark scheme**<br>• Exploring the mark scheme – assessing previous students' work against it (e.g. from suitable legacy A2 work) |
| **Weeks 3–7** | **Further teaching on recording with multiple microphones and polar patterns**<br>• Workshops on multiple mic techniques and polar patterns, e.g. mid-side acoustic guitar<br>• Gain structure and using outboard for recording, e.g. bass through valve compressor<br>• Consolidate research and preparation, and start recording task based on brief prescribed by Pearson |
| **Weeks 8–14** | **Mixing using advanced dynamics parameters and starting NEA brief**<br>• Start recording NEA task in independent study to brief set by Pearson<br>• Mixing tasks using advanced functions on compressors, gates, reverb and delay |
| **Weeks 15–20** | **Advanced audio editing, pitch/rhythm correction and continuing NEA brief**<br>• Advanced audio-editing tasks, e.g. dealing with phase issues and removing plosives<br>• Advanced pitch and rhythm correction, e.g. replacing errors in drum track with material from elsewhere in track<br>• Whole mix tasks focusing on areas of the mark scheme<br>• Continue recording task based on brief prescribed by Pearson |
| **Weeks 21–26** | **Supervised NEA sessions with skills-based starter activities**<br>• Supervised NEA sessions with skills-based mixing workshops at the start of each lesson<br>• Mastering, e.g. topping and tailing, perceived volume using limiting and master EQ<br>• Interim deadline – feedback on brief based piece |
| **Weeks 27–33** | **Refining and finish NEA recording**<br>• Refining recording (NEA) project with peer review<br>• Completing logbooks<br>• Submit final NEA piece |

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